



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of  
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

September 5, 2006

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## Corn Silage Harvest Starts

Limited rainfall and average temperatures allowed many farmers to start harvesting corn silage during the week. Temperatures ranged from 1 degree below to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures were in the 70s across the state. Lows averaged in the 50s to low 60s for the week. Minimal precipitation was received during the week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.04 inches in La Crosse to 0.14 inches in Milwaukee. Soil moisture conditions were at 8 percent very short, 14 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Soil conditions continue to be dry in east central areas of the state. Last week there was an average of 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork.

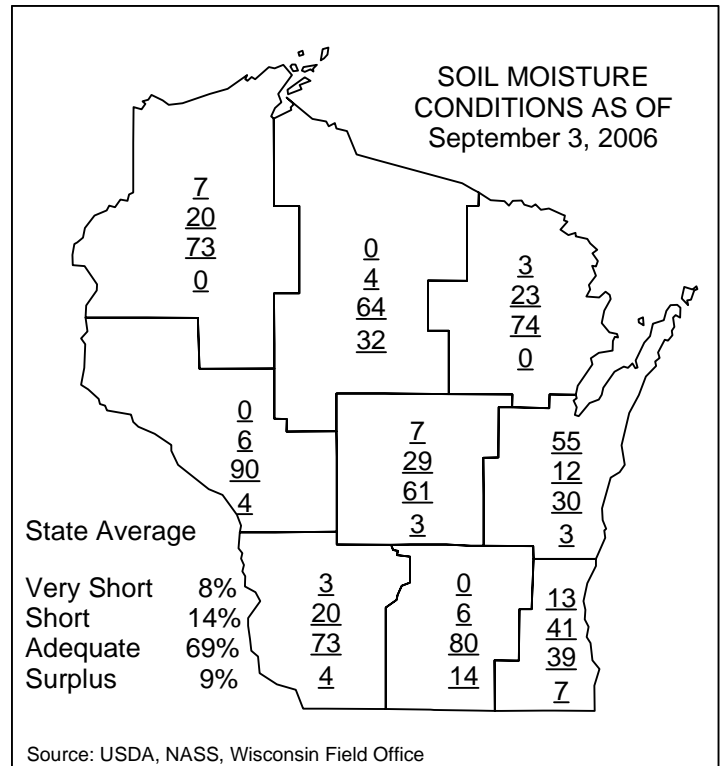
**Corn** in the dough stage was at 87 percent, ahead of last year's 86 percent and the 5-year average of 73 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn dent was at 51 percent, slightly behind last year's 53 percent, but more than the 5-year average of 32 percent. Corn mature was at 3 percent, compared to last year's 6 percent and the 5-year average of 1 percent. Corn silage harvested was at 6 percent, behind last year's 15 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 4 percent. Silage harvest progress is expected to increase next week, as fields dry. Corn conditions were rated as 6 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Limited rain has stressed the crop in northwestern and east central parts of the state. Corn is maturing rapidly and looks good in the rest of the state.

**Soybeans** leaves turning color was at 27 percent, behind last year's 45 percent, but just above the 5-year average of 24 percent. Soybeans dropping leaves was at 3 percent, compared to last year's 11 percent and the 5-year average of 2 percent. Soybean conditions in the northern part of the state have improved with the recent rains. Weed pressure and white mold have started to show in some fields. Fields in southern counties are tall and look good.

Third cutting **alfalfa** was at 83 percent complete, ahead of last year's 81 percent and the 5-year average of 73 percent. The quality and quantity of this cutting has been good. Fourth cutting alfalfa was at 13 percent complete, in front of last year and the 5-year average of 7 percent. Fourth crop growth is in good shape with the recent moisture. Rains could impact the quality of some hay.

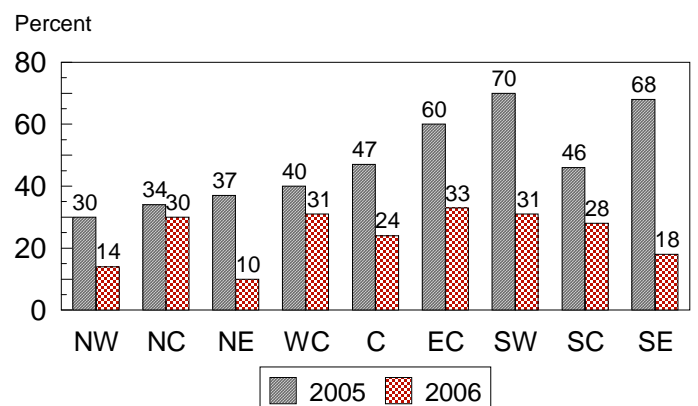
**Pasture** conditions were rated as 5 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

**Seed corn** harvest started in southern Wisconsin. **Potato**, **cucumber**, and **sweet corn** harvest continued during the week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 3, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	6	8	27	39	20
Soybeans	2	8	30	40	20
Pasture	5	11	40	38	6

## Soybeans Turning Color By District, Sept. 4, 2005 vs. Sept. 3, 2006



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 3, 2006												
Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn dough	86	83	68	88	88	82	91	91	88	87	86	73
Corn dent	39	28	33	52	51	45	70	55	64	51	53	32
Corn harvested for silage	3	3	1	9	10	8	6	7	7	6	15	4
Soybeans turning color	14	30	10	31	24	33	31	28	18	27	45	24
Soybeans dropping leaves	2	8	3	5	2	8	1	1	1	3	11	2
Third cutting hay	64	83	83	92	81	78	81	97	86	83	81	73
Fourth cutting hay	10	12	13	22	8	8	16	15	1	13	7	7

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** Conditions continue to be dry. Second crop hay is short and has to cover a lot of ground for a load, but it is being harvested. Corn has small cobs, but will at least make silage.

**BURNETT-R.B.:** If there are any ears of corn, it will be made into feed. I have not seen any soybean fields yet that had any pods. There are a lot of weeds.

**CLARK-N.S.:** Late weeds are showing up in many locations.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** Recent rains have saved the corn and soybean crops. Corn will have some loss of yields due to not setting ears during dry weather. Pastures have recovered from drought and are normal. Some small grain yields were reduced because of small kernel size.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Corn and soybeans look the best. Corn is denting, but yields will be below average or average. Soybeans are not turning yet, but look very good. Third crop hay had excellent yields.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Corn silage will start coming off this week, with some of the early corn denting well. A few soybean fields are starting to turn color. The soybeans are really tall in this area and look to be setting some nice full pods. Alfalfa continues to be overly abundant, with very high tonnage coming off for all the cuttings.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** It hailed here on the soybeans, and they now have a rotting smell. Corn silage is being harvested. Lots of hay is also being harvested. Nights are below 50 degrees now.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Some corn is being harvested for silage. Lots of poor silage on the light soils. Hail this past week was very hard causing much damage to the soybeans and corn. Vegetable crops really got totaled-out in our area. Third crop hay is mostly done, and some fourth crop is also done. This is not good weather for drying hay, but better for chopping.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Some fourth crop hay is going on with good quality, but average yields.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Our area is dry because the showers have been missing this area. Soybean fields seem to be average.

Most of the third crop hay has been harvested with good quality, but poor yields.

**FOND DU LAC-B.B.:** Very dry in our portion of the county. Corn and soybeans are starting to burn up. Third and fourth crop alfalfa is very light.

**SHEBOYGAN-T.B.:** Corn silage is being harvested and drought-stressed areas are extremely dry. Soybeans are being stressed by the dry conditions and yield potentials are declining. Third and fourth crop hay is good. We were lucky enough to have gotten sporadic moisture. All small grains have been harvested in our area. Fields are extremely dry; the predominantly clay soils have developed very large cracks where moisture is all but gone.

**IOWA-K.V.:** Corn is being chopped for silage. Soybeans are changing color. Shell corn has tested at 35 percent moisture. Fourth crop alfalfa looks excellent.

**SAUK-D.H.:** Had 5.2 inches of rain in two days.

**DODGE-G.R.:** Corn looks tall and rigorous. Ears are maturing. Corn silage harvest will begin this coming week. Soybeans remain deep green; they are taller than last year and some lodging can be seen. Third cutting of alfalfa is nearing completion. Yields in quantity as good as second cutting. Regrowth of fourth crop over knee-high on some fields.

**GREEN-F.Z.:** We have it pretty good here compared to some other reports. Hay, corn, and soybeans look good. Some corn fields have some tall "cat track" weeds in them. The racoons are having their annual fall picnics in our fields.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Corn silage harvest will start soon. Soybean yields are getting hurt by lack of rain.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Corn and beans look OK. Need good weather now. No frost.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 3, 2006**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Sept. 2	Mar. 1 to Sept. 2 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	79	54	85	47	67	2	2637	2124	0.06	0.0	n.a.	19.16
Green Bay	76	51	80	46	64	0	2267	1987	0.00	0.0	n.a.	20.92
La Crosse	77	57	81	51	67	-1	2755	2383	0.04	0.0	n.a.	21.81
Madison	76	54	78	50	65	-1	2464	2321	0.07	0.0	n.a.	25.96
Milwaukee	73	63	75	60	68	0	2428	n.a.	0.14	0.0	n.a.	25.46

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \*Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.